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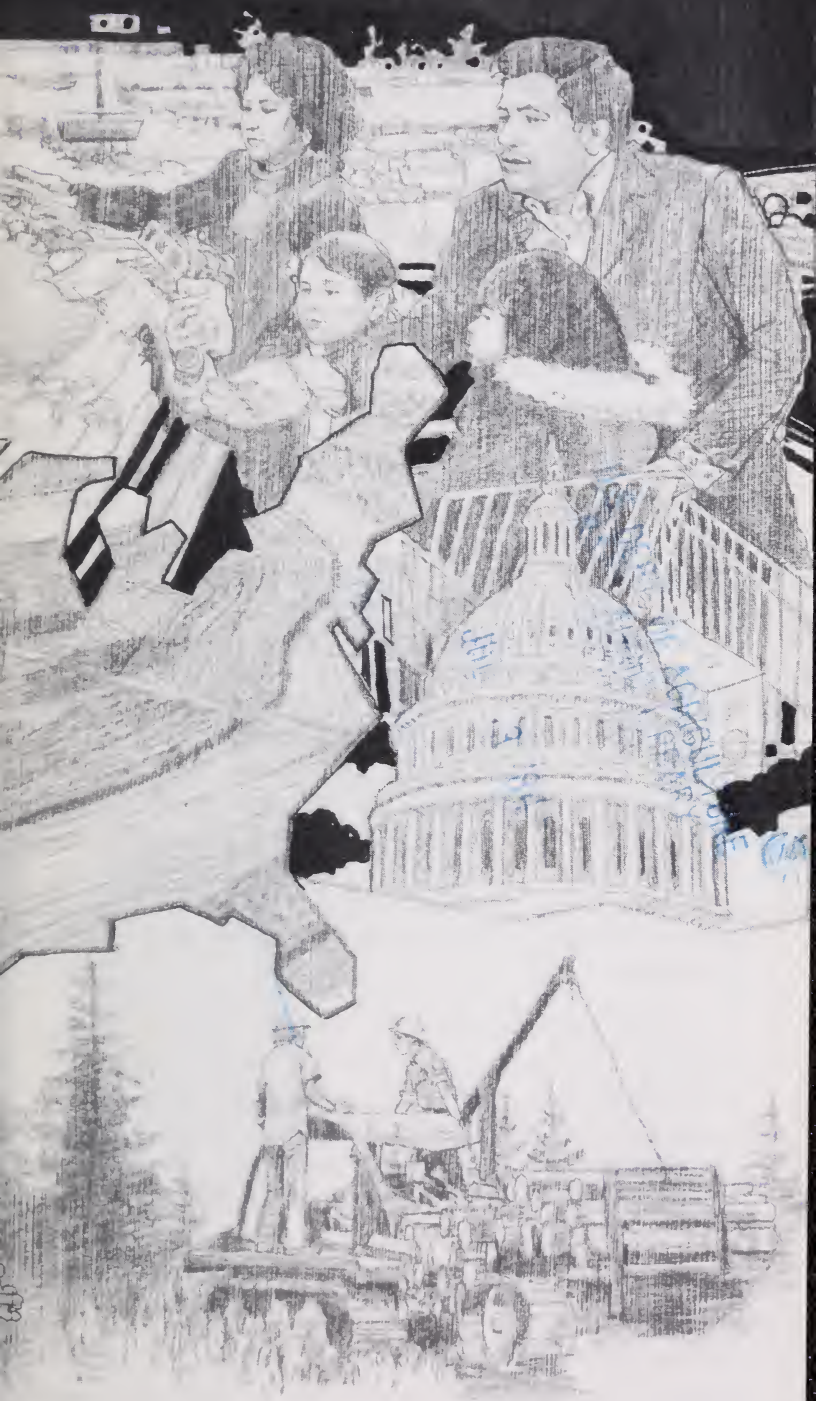
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John Doe

# Cooperative Extension Service

A Nationwide Knowledge System



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

PREPARED BY  
Extension  
Service

Program Aid  
Number 1302

## **The Cooperative Extension Service— A Nationwide Knowledge System**

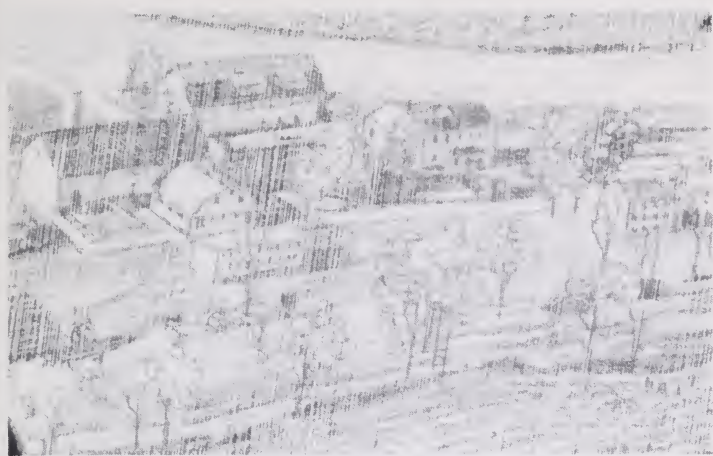
The philosophy of the Cooperative Extension Service system is to reach and teach people with programs where they are—geographically, and in terms of interests, understanding, and skills. This could mean improved farm management for farmers, more energy-efficient housing for homeowners, or increased involvement in community decisionmaking for rural residents.

An informal educational organization, established by Congress in 1914, the Cooperative Extension Service is a partnership of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), State land-grant colleges and universities, and county governments. The cooperating colleges and universities are those authorized by Congress through the 1862, and later the 1890, land-grant acts.

Extension staffs in more than 3,000 counties nationwide draw on the knowledge of university and USDA specialists and research scientists to develop their programs for the public. County and area Extension personnel live and work in the communities they serve. They get to know people firsthand so they can develop practical educational programs to meet specific local needs in the areas of agriculture, home economics, natural resources, community and rural development, and 4-H youth.

Thousands of volunteer leaders contribute time and skills to help with Extension adult and youth programs. Educational information is presented through public meetings, demonstration projects, tours, personal visits, telephone calls, direct mailings, publications, computers, and mass media.

Traditionally, Extension has a volunteer emphasis in its programs. Over a million Extension homemakers and other volunteers assist with the teaching. These volunteers teach others, serve on advisory and program development groups, explain Extension programs to their friends and neighbors, and help Extension report to key decisionmakers.



## Agriculture

Agricultural programs help farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses make the best use of agricultural research to meet food, fiber, and shelter needs. These programs show how to grow, market, process, and use farm products, and teach ways to adjust to changing economic conditions.

Extension specialists help both small- and large-scale farmers solve everyday problems of crops and soils, livestock and poultry, and farm machinery and buildings. Programs teach effective management practices for reducing water pollution, ways to conserve energy in agricultural production, and ways to use such alternative energy sources as solar heating and farm-produced alcohol. Other programs stress farm safety and safe use of pesticides.

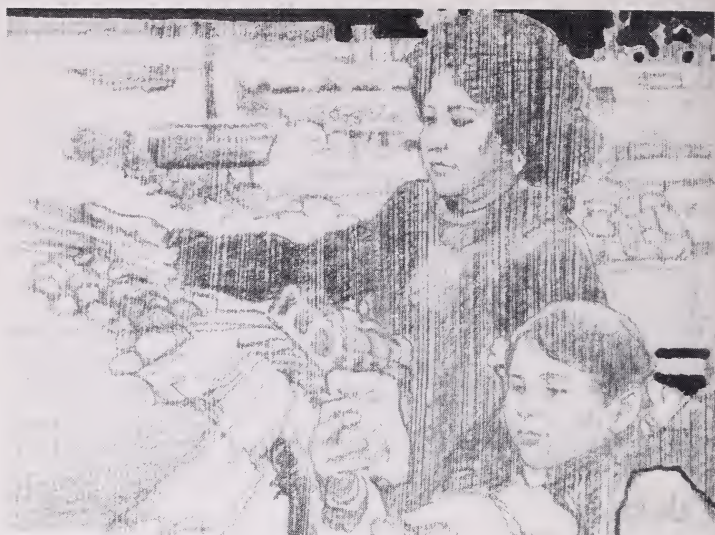
Computers in homes and central offices bring farmers fast, up-to-date information to help with farm management and with crops and livestock production. Computer programs also provide farmers with the latest information on agricultural weather, markets, pest control, and meetings.

Extension assists farmer cooperatives, processors, wholesalers, and transporters of agricultural goods by helping them study the economic effects of foreign markets and consumer preferences. Other professional and business people who serve agriculture—veterinarians, vocational agriculture teachers, and bankers—also turn to Extension for technical information and training.

Special programs in farm and home management assist farmers with limited resources.

Extension office personnel also answer questions that rural and urban homeowners have concerning lawn, garden, landscaping, and insect control.





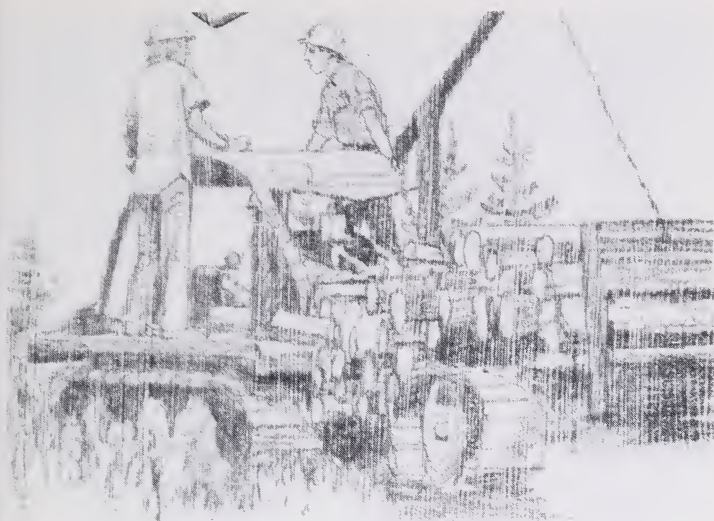
## Home Economics

Extension home economics programs make research results available in practical, useful forms to millions of families and individuals so they can build better lives for their families, themselves, and their communities. Professional home economists, paid paraprofessional aides, and trained volunteers do the teaching with intensive help provided through individual contacts, workshops, and group meetings.

Information, mostly free, is provided to large numbers of people through radio, television, newspapers, newsletters, publications, self-study courses, computer-assisted instruction, teleconferences, and telephone dial access systems. Extension home economics information helps families and individuals help themselves.

One major focus area is food, nutrition, and health. Extension educators teach the relationship between diet and health; how to select, prepare, and store food safely; how to plan nutritious, economical meals; how to have a good personal fitness program; and how to preserve food safely. Another major focus is family economic stability and security. Extension educators show families and individuals how to manage financial and other resources wisely, handle credit, and plan for the future.

Family strengths and social environment is also a focus area. People learn effective parenting skills, creative ways to strengthen family relationships, and tested strategies for dealing with stress. Energy and the environment is another area of emphasis that helps people understand the need to conserve energy, plan budgets to meet energy needs, and make housing and furnishing decisions for more economical use of energy.



## **Natural Resources**

Programs in natural resources help people decide how to manage and use forest and range resources, and the benefits associated with them, such as wildlife, fish, and recreation. These programs also help with understanding complex ecological interrelationships.

With this information, landowners, users, decision-makers, planners, and the general public can better understand how a particular natural resource can be enhanced for its economic and social benefits, while protecting the environment. Wise stewardship of natural resources is critical to the Nation's future and its continuing capabilities to produce food and fiber for everyone.

Through these programs, citizens also learn how to participate in the formulation of public natural resource policy, and how to gain popular support for programs that perpetuate and enhance natural resources.

Well-managed natural resources produce income and other benefits to owners, reduce dependence on imports, provide stable jobs and income of rural communities, and provide renewable sources of energy.



## **Community and Rural Development**

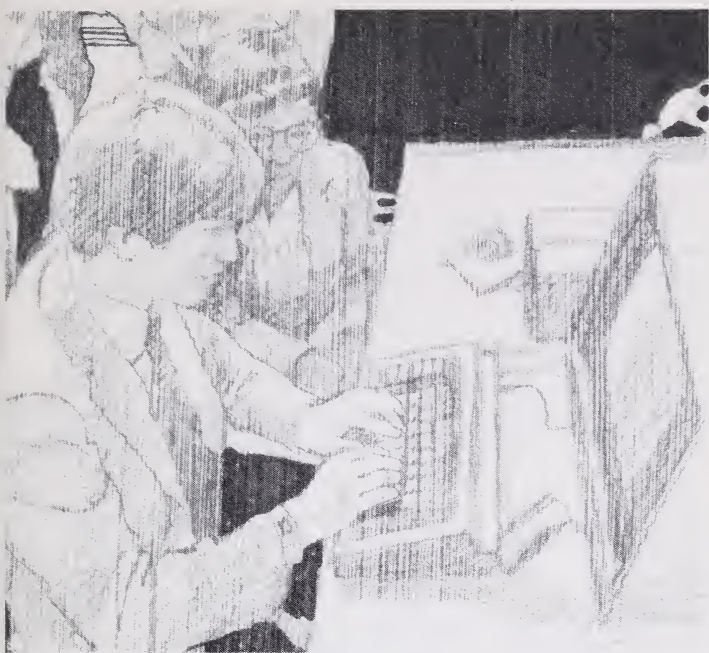
Community and rural development programs help people improve the communities in which they live and work. Extension educators assist local people in developing jobs and economic opportunities, establishing community facilities and services, and strengthening a community's ability to define and solve its own problems.

Staffs at land-grant universities work with hundreds of other public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions to provide research, education, technical assistance, community surveys and studies, and organizational and leadership skills to local government bodies and citizen groups.

Community leaders and Extension specialists apply the latest scientific and technical knowledge to specific community planning and community concerns such as housing, health, water, sewage and solid waste, comprehensive planning, and recreation and tourism.

Some critical concerns Extension educators are working on with local citizens are community energy policy and conservation, rural transportation alternatives, small business and small farm management, rural crime, and the needs of the elderly.





## **4-H — Youth**

Extension's educational youth program is 4-H. Participation is open to all interested persons between the ages of 9 and 19. Programs are planned by Extension staffs in cooperation with volunteers and parents in local communities. The four "H's" on the four-leaf clover emblem stand for head, heart, hands, and health.

Youth participate through organized 4-H clubs, 4-H special interest or short-term groups, 4-H school enrichment programs, 4-H instructional television, 4-H camping, or as individual 4-H members.

Through learn-by-doing experiences, young persons acquire knowledge in agricultural sciences and family living, develop practical living skills, and form attitudes that enable them to become self-directing, producing, and contributing members of society.

In 4-H, these youths are involved in energy conservation, environmental improvement, community service, and food production; and participate in programs that aid youth employment and career decisions, health, nutrition, and family relationships. As a result of exchange programs with many countries, 4-H also is contributing to international understanding. In these various 4-H activities, youth apply leadership skills, acquire a positive self-concept, and learn to respect and get along with people.

## **The Nationwide Cooperative Extension System Is Close To You**

The local Extension office is as close as the telephone—it probably is listed under county government in the Directory. Offices usually are located in the courthouse, post office, or other government buildings in the county seat town. Or write for information to the Director/Administrator of the Extension Service at the listed address.

<b>Alabama-</b>	Auburn University, Auburn 36849 Alabama A&M University, Normal 35762 Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee 36088
<b>Alaska-</b>	University of Alaska, Fairbanks 99701
<b>American Samoa-</b>	American Samoa Community College, Pago Pago 96799
<b>Arizona-</b>	University of Arizona, Tucson 85721
<b>Arkansas-</b>	University of Arkansas, Little Rock 72203 University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff 71601
<b>California-</b>	University of California, Berkeley 94720
<b>Colorado-</b>	Colorado State University, Fort Collins 80523
<b>Connecticut-</b>	University of Connecticut, Storrs 06268
<b>Delaware-</b>	University of Delaware, Newark 19717-1303 Delaware State College, Dover 19901
<b>District of Columbia-</b>	University of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC 20008
<b>Florida-</b>	University of Florida, Gainesville 32611 Florida A&M University, Tallahassee 32307
<b>Georgia-</b>	University of Georgia, Athens 30602 The Fort Valley State College, Fort Valley 31030

<b>Guam-</b>	University of Guam, Agana 96910
<b>Hawaii-</b>	University of Hawaii, Honolulu 96822
<b>Idaho-</b>	University of Idaho, Moscow 83843
<b>Illinois-</b>	University of Illinois, Urbana 61801
<b>Indiana-</b>	Purdue University, West Lafayette 47907
<b>Iowa-</b>	Iowa State University, Ames 50011
<b>Kansas-</b>	Kansas State University, Manhattan 66506
<b>Kentucky-</b>	University of Kentucky, Lexington 40546  Kentucky State University, Frankfort 40601
<b>Louisiana-</b>	Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge 70803  Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge 70813
<b>Maine-</b>	University of Maine, Orono 04473
<b>Maryland-</b>	University of Maryland, College Park 20742  University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, Princess Anne 21853
<b>Massachusetts-</b>	University of Massachusetts, Amherst 01003
<b>Michigan-</b>	Michigan State University, East Lansing 44824
<b>Micronesia-</b>	College of Micronesia Ponape, E.C.I. 96941
<b>Minnesota-</b>	University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55108
<b>Mississippi-</b>	Mississippi State University, Mississippi State 39762  Alcorn State University, Lorman 39096
<b>Missouri-</b>	University of Missouri, Columbia 65211 Lincoln University, Jefferson City 65101

<b>Montana-</b>	Montana State University, Bozeman 59715
<b>Nebraska-</b>	University of Nebraska, Lincoln 68583
<b>Nevada-</b>	University of Nevada, Reno 89557
<b>New Hampshire-</b>	University of New Hampshire, Durham 03824
<b>New Jersey-</b>	Rutgers State University, New Brunswick 08903
<b>New Mexico-</b>	New Mexico State University, Las Cruces 88003
<b>New York-</b>	New York State College of Agriculture, Ithaca 14853
<b>North Carolina-</b>	North Carolina State University, Raleigh 27650  North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro 27420
<b>North Dakota-</b>	North Dakota State University, Fargo 58105
<b>Northern Marianas-</b>	Department of Natural Resources, Saipan, CNMI 96950
<b>Ohio-</b>	The Ohio State University, Columbus 43210
<b>Oklahoma-</b>	Oklahoma State University, Stillwater 74078  Langston University, Langston 73050
<b>Oregon-</b>	Oregon State University, Corvallis 97331
<b>Pennsylvania-</b>	The Pennsylvania State University, University Park 16802
<b>Puerto Rico-</b>	University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez 00708
<b>Rhode Island-</b>	University of Rhode Island, Kingston 02881



<b>South Carolina-</b>	Clemson University, Clemson 29631 South Carolina State College, Orangeburg 29117
<b>South Dakota-</b>	South Dakota State University, Brook- ings 57006
<b>Tennessee-</b>	University of Tennessee, Knoxville 37901  Tennessee State University, Nashville 37203
<b>Texas-</b>	Texas A&M University, College Station 77843  Prairie View A&M College, Prairie View 77445
<b>Utah-</b>	Utah State University, Logan 84321
<b>Vermont-</b>	University of Vermont, Burlington 05401
<b>Virginia-</b>	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg 24061  Virginia State College, Petersburg 23803
<b>Virgin Islands-</b>	College of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix 00850
<b>Washington-</b>	Washington State University, Pullman 99164-6230
<b>West Virginia-</b>	West Virginia University, Morgantown 26506
<b>Wisconsin-</b>	University of Wisconsin, Madison 53706
<b>Wyoming-</b>	University of Wyoming, Laramie 82071

For information on Extension at the national and international level, write to the Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250

Revised May 1984

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